

In The Claims:

Please amend claim 24 and add claims 39-48 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for coupling two elements, comprising:
 - an outer tubular member defining one or more outer tubular member slots;
 - an inner tubular member defining one or more inner tubular member slots positioned within the outer tubular member; and
 - a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member, comprising:
 - a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the inner tubular member;
 - a coupling arm extending from the tubular coupling body; and
 - a coupling element extending from the coupling arm, said coupling element adapted to mate with at least one outer tubular member slot and at least one inner tubular member slot.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the coupling arm extends from the tubular coupling body in a longitudinal direction.

18. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the coupling element extends from the coupling arm in a radial direction.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising: a tubular support member defining an internal passage having a throat passage, a plurality of radial passages coupled to the internal passage, and an external shoulder that is coupled to the inner tubular member.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the tubular coupling body is movably coupled to the tubular support member.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising: a locking member coupled to the coupling assembly that comprises: a tubular locking body movably coupled to the tubular support member; and a plurality of locking dogs movably coupled to the tubular locking body for engaging the shoulder of the tubular support member.

22. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for coupling two elements, comprising:
an outer tubular member defining one or more outer tubular member slots;
an inner tubular member defining one or more inner tubular member slots
positioned within the outer tubular member;
a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member, comprising:
a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the inner tubular member;

one or more coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body; and coupling elements extending from corresponding coupling arms adapted to mate with corresponding outer tubular member and inner tubular member slots;

a tubular support member defining an internal passage having a throat passage, a plurality of radial passages coupled to the internal passage, and an external shoulder that is coupled to the inner tubular member; and

a tubular retaining sleeve releasably coupled to the tubular support member for retaining the coupling elements within the corresponding pairs of outer tubular member member and inner tubular member slots.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising: an annular pressure chamber defined between the tubular support member and the tubular retaining sleeve that is fluidically coupled to the radial passages of the tubular support member.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

a resilient coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

a decoupling assembly for controllably decoupling the outer tubular member from the inner tubular member if the operating pressure within the inner tubular member exceeds a predetermined value.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

a decoupling assembly for controllably decoupling the outer tubular member from the inner tubular member if the inner tubular member is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the outer tubular member and then displaced in an opposite longitudinal direction relative to the outer tubular member.

27. (Previously Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

means for releasably coupling at least one outer tubular member slot to at least one inner tubular member slot.

28. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slot to the inner tubular member slot comprises:

means for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member at a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart slots.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member comprises:

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member if the operating pressure within the inner tubular member exceeds a predetermined value.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member comprises:

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member if the inner tubular member is displaced relative to the outer tubular member in a longitudinal direction and then displaced relative to the outer tubular member in an opposite longitudinal direction.

32. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member defining a plurality of radial slots;

an inner tubular member defining a plurality of radial slots positioned within the outer tubular member;

a tubular support member defining an internal passage having a throat passage, a plurality of radial passages coupled to the internal passage, and an external shoulder that is coupled to the inner tubular member;

a coupling assembly for coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member, including:

a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the tubular support member;

a plurality of coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body in a longitudinal direction; and

coupling elements extending from corresponding coupling arms in a radial direction that mate with corresponding pairs of outer tubular member and inner tubular member slots;

a locking member coupled to the coupling assembly that comprises:

a tubular locking body movably coupled to the tubular support member; and

a plurality of locking dogs movably coupled to the tubular locking body for engaging the shoulder of the tubular support member;

a tubular retaining sleeve releasably coupled to the tubular support member for retaining the coupling elements within the corresponding pairs of outer tubular member and inner tubular member slots; and

an annular pressure chamber defined between the tubular support member and the tubular retaining sleeve that is fluidically coupled to the radial passages of the tubular support member.

33. (Previously Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member at a plurality of the discrete circumferentially spaced apart slots;

a first decoupling assembly for controllably decoupling the outer tubular member from the inner tubular member if the operating pressure within the inner tubular member exceeds a predetermined value; and

a second decoupling assembly for controllably decoupling the outer tubular member from the inner tubular member if the inner tubular member is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the outer tubular member and then displaced in an opposite longitudinal direction relative to the outer tubular member.

34. (Previously Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

means for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member at a plurality of the circumferentially spaced apart slots;

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member if the operating pressure within the inner tubular member exceeds a predetermined value; and

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member if the inner tubular member is displaced relative to the outer tubular member in a longitudinal direction and then displaced relative to the outer tubular member in an opposite longitudinal direction.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a plurality of coupling elements extending from the plurality of coupling arms.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the plurality of coupling elements are adapted to mate with a plurality of outer tubular member slots and a plurality of inner tubular member slots.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the plurality of coupling elements are mated with a plurality of outer tubular member slots and a plurality of inner tubular member slots.

39. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

a non-frangible coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete

circumferentially spaced apart locations.

40. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;
an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and
a radially moveable coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations.

41. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;
an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and
a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations, comprising:
a base member; and
one or more engagement members pivotally coupled to the base member for engaging corresponding slots of the inner and outer tubular members.

42. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

wherein the coupling assembly is adapted to transmit torque loads between the inner and outer tubular members.

43. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

wherein the coupling assembly is adapted to transmit axial loads between the inner and outer tubular members.

44. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

means for transmitting torque loads between the inner and outer tubular members.

45. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

means for transmitting axial loads between the inner and outer tubular members.

47. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

means for axially displacing the coupling assembly relative to at least one of the inner and outer tubular members during a decoupling of the inner and outer tubular members.

48. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

means for radially displacing the coupling assembly relative to at least one of the inner and outer tubular members during a decoupling of the inner and outer tubular members.

49 (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member releasably coupled to the outer tubular member;

means for releasing the inner tubular member from engagement with the outer tubular member; and

means for pressurizing the outer tubular member following the disengagement of the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member.